

HOMEBIRTHS REVIEW — RECOMMENDATIONS

1264. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I understand that a steering committee has been established to progress the implementation of the recommendations from the Western Australian Home Births Review 2008, —

- (1) Can you please advise the current status, in particular in relation to implementing recommendation 20, 'a Community Midwifery Program could be established in the South West area'?
- (2) The previous Government announced that the Improving Maternity Services Policy released in January 2008 outlined the direction Western Australian health would take over the coming five years. As part of the implementation of this policy the previous Minister stated that Western Australian Health was investigating the feasibility of establishing a birth centre in the South West, if this policy is still current, please advise the status and projected timeframe for the completion of this study?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Yes. The steering committee is currently assessing the recommendations and will submit a report on all the recommendations of the WA Home Births Review 2008 to the Department of Health's State Health Executive Forum for consideration by late November 2009.
- (2) The Improving Maternity Services Policy is still current. No commitment is made within this policy to investigate the feasibility to establish a birth centre in the South West. However, recently the Minister for Health has requested that Bunbury Regional Hospital along with the Community Midwifery Program through the North Metropolitan Area Health Service investigate this option.